

## Our Daily Bread

Sliced Thin by The Editor  
Alex. H. Washburn

### Why Penalize Little Fellows for 'Bigness'?

As indicated by yesterday's wire dispatches on this page the morning newspaper today report that Southwestern Bell Telephone company has rejected union demands for a 15-cent hourly wage increase on 50,000 employees in six states.

I know, of course, that this labor quarrel originates at a point far removed from our own Hope exchange and that the local Bell employees have no more voice in calling a strike than you would expect of a small exchange which is linked with the vast exchanges of major cities.

But it is the local public which has to pay for telephone service, and, as each wage increase is inevitably followed by an increase in charges to Bell subscribers, it seems in the public interest to print the wage scales now prevailing in the Bell system.

The company has gotten out a factual "background" report for press use, and this report says:

"Operators are the largest group of telephone employees. A young girl, just out of school, with no business experience, who started a year ago as a telephone operator, is now earning basic pay of \$34 a week (\$147.00 a month). If she had started as a service representative in the business office, she is now earning \$36 a week (\$156 a month). . . . These are basic pay rates for a 40-hour person in the business. Extra pay is earned for evening, Sunday, or holiday work."

Well, what is a fair pay schedule in a small city like Hope?

Is the above schedule too low for similar work in our town, or is Hope being penalized for belonging to a system that unfortunately includes cities the size of St. Louis?

Capacity to pay for telephone charges varies widely with the size of towns and the character of their trade territory. Industrial cities offer more opportunity for labor and command a higher general level of wages. But can country-cities which depend on agriculture and wood-working plants keep up with their big town cousins in telephone wages — and telephone bills?

## Describes Horrible Hospital Fire

(Editor's note: Patrolman Richard Fee of the Davenport police force was one of the first to arrive at today's Mercy hospital fire. Here is his story.)

By RICHARD FEE  
Davenport Police Force  
As told to United Press

Davenport, Jan. 7 (UP)—I was one of the first to reach the hospital when we got the alarm. Flames were shooting out of the windows on the second and third floors and I could see more fire on the roof of the building.

I grabbed an axe and climbed to the top of one of them. I chopped at the anchor bolts holding the bars across one of the windows. I thought those bars never would give way.

I finally dropped to the ground and I smashed the pane with the helve of the axe.

I saw a light I guess I never will forget. Silhouetted against the flames were a group of patients. They were screaming and I didn't seem excited much. They just looked bewildered. Sort of like animals who had something new happening to them and didn't know just what to do.

The flames were all around them by then. But thank God, they were docile and followed my orders willingly. I climbed in and took several by the hands and led them to the window.

Firemen and other officers headed them to the ladders and I went as far as possible into the building to get more.

Altogether, I guess I found about a half dozen patients and got them out that window. I didn't have time to keep count.

Those flames were hot. I could feel them searing by uniform and my skin as I ducked among them. Miss Josephine O'Toole of Davenport, a nurse's aide, said she was awakened by screams of patients while asleep in her room on the third floor.

"I threw open a window, but saw nothing unusual, and decided to go back to bed," Miss O'Toole said.

"Then I heard someone shout 'Fire' and I opened my door and looked into the hall.

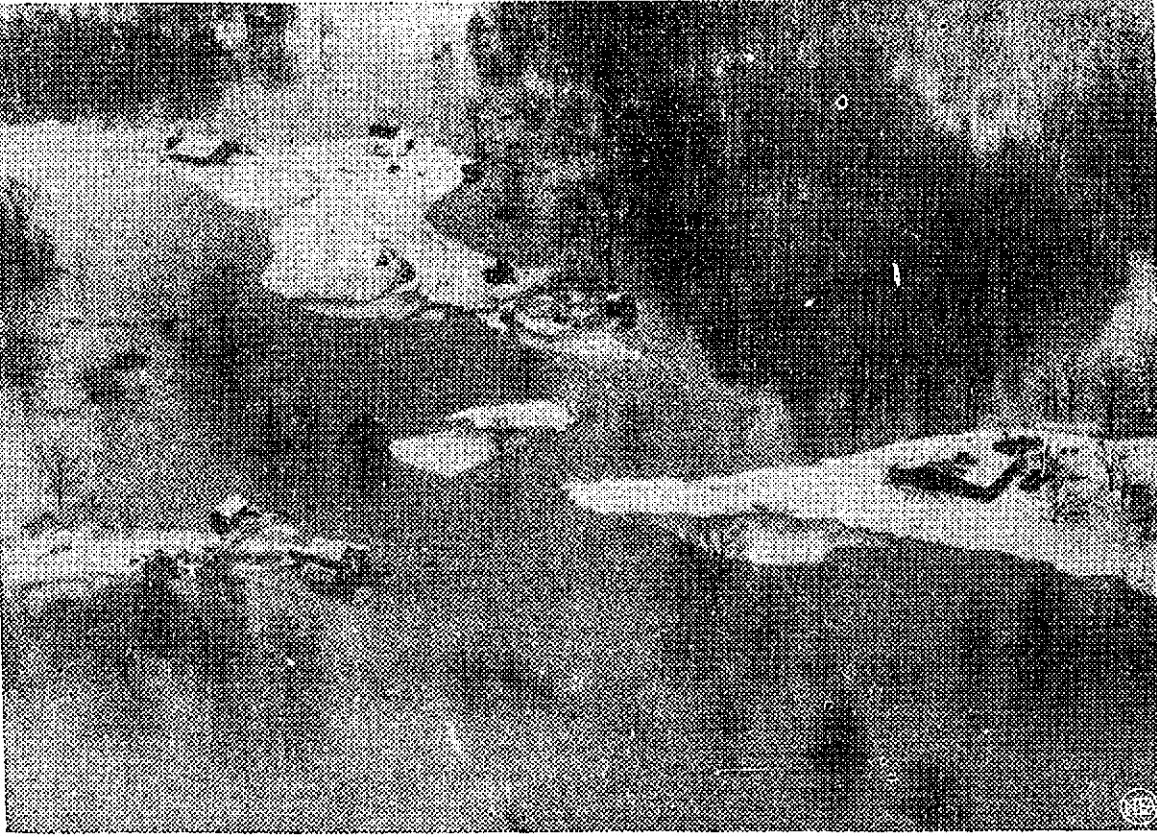
"I smelled smoke and heard more screams on floors below me. I didn't know how long the fire had been burning and I was afraid I would be trapped.

"Windows are barred and, any way, I didn't reach the prospect of jumping from the third floor.

"So I grabbed my coat, put it over my nightgown, and ran down the stairs to the basement. There I was joined by Mrs. Neighbors, one of the patients, and we went out through the basement door.

"I really don't know what time it was but it must have been a little before 2 o'clock.

Flames started to shoot up from the building a short time later. "I guess I was one of the first out of the building."



FLOODS CONTINUE IN ILLINOIS — Waters from the swollen banks of the Kaskaskia River near Vandalia, Illinois, cover almost all of the farmland nearby. The few homes that are not completely under water, are isolated along with their stock. (NEA Telephoto)

## Janitor Is Quizzed in Reuther Blast

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 7 (UP)—Police hammered questions today at a soft-spoken middle-aged janitor today in an effort to break the Reuther brother shootings and the attempt to break the lives of United Auto Workers headquarters.

Fifty-eight-year-old George Thomas confessed last night that he falsely reported himself kidnapped yesterday to cover up a suicide attempt.

Detroit police and the FBI hint that it was the "biggest break" since the first outbreak of violence against the union and its leaders in April, 1948.

Inspector Joseph V. Krug said that Thomas, a bachelor, "most definitely" would be questioned about attempts on the lives of UAW President Walter Reuther and his brother, Victor, and about the dynamite bomb found by Thomas at the union's headquarters building here Dec. 20. But he said Thomas also would be given a sanity test.

Thomas was found roaming near suburban Dearborn, Mich. He seemed dazed. A piece of sash cord was tied around his neck.

At first he said two strange men forced him into their car, drove him around Detroit, then tied him up and dumped him into a roadside snowbank.

Thirteen hours later a detective tricked him into tying another piece of rope around his neck. He tied the same, bdd double square knot that held the rope when police first found him.

It was then that he broke down. "People were saying I put the bomb against the building," the janitor said. "Life just didn't seem worth living. I tried to kill myself."

Thomas said he tried to strangle himself with the rope, but lost his courage when he first felt it tighten around his neck. He said he lost consciousness, then awoke and started "just walking around."

## Politics in Germany Settle on Unification

Berlin, Jan. 7 (AP)—The Propaganda war between East and West German politicians last night centered on the issue of unifying Germany.

The German socialist leaders, winding up a two-day general strategy conference, warned against unification under Russian-inspired terms. The party's leaders said there was a tendency among some circles to compromise with communists in Eastern zone demands for German unity purely for the sake of economic gain "of questionable common value."

In a counterblast, a member of East Germany's Socialist Unity (Communist) party pointed out that Franz Dahlen, called West German Socialist Leader Dr. Karl Schumacher a tool of the "imperialists." He demanded that mines and factories belonging to "old and new war criminals" in West Germany be seized and placed in the "hands of the workers."

The Socialists declared their task was to "exhaust all opportunities for a planned offensive during the creation of a unified, free Germany."

The communist talks as outlined by Dahlen, were to silence immediately the "war mongers and enemies of the Soviet Union" by new methods of agitation. He said the occupation in the West had become a threat to European security.

The Soviet-licensed news agency ADN said the Communist party had drafted a 10-point program for Berlin, demanding a single currency for the city instead of the East and West mark of unequal value being used, and "reestablishment of democracy in the western sectors."

The Socialist leaders earlier had drafted a six-point program for combatting communist influence in Berlin.

## Rules Funds Can Be Transferred to Safety Council

Little Rock, Jan. 7 (UP)—Atty. Gen. Ike Murry has ruled that the governor may transfer \$10,000 from his emergency fund to support the Arkansas Safety Council.

The transfer was requested by Matt L. Ellis, chairman of the council set up by the 1949 Arkansas legislature. The council hopes to be a self-supporting through paid memberships and donations from highway groups.

Murry said that the act settling a public emergency fund provides that the money may be used in the event of "public calamity."

Murry said that it is the duty of the state revenue department, rather than automobile dealers, to collect sales taxes on automobiles bought in Arkansas by out-of-state persons.

## Basil York to Furniture Market

Furniture buyers from all over the world will preview spring styles at the American Furniture Mart in Chicago, January 9-20, and among the number will be Basil York, owner and operator of York Furniture Store of Hope.

According to Mr. York approximately 25,000 buyers from all over America attend the Chicago show annually.

Of the new samples will be modern with additional trends of Eighteenth Century, Early American and French Provincial also well represented, Mr. York predicted.

On color schemes, predictions were that, pink in place of lipstick red, lime and olive green to override chateaux, purple, and browns and beiges to steal the scene from gray.

Merchandise purchased in Chicago will be shown here throughout the season, Mr. York said.

## There Are a Few Ways Left to Become an "Influential" Person in Next 50 Years

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The air has been full of lists of the ten most influential figures of the last 50 years.

This is all water over the dam. What every ambitious American boy or girl today wants to know is, "what can I do to become one of the most influential persons of the next 50 years?"

Well, that one is easy. It is no trick at all to name some of the feats that — if you can do them — will make you one of the best remembered leaders of the last half of the 20th century. How to do them is the big thing.

Starting a third world war would be the simplest way but who wants to be remembered for that? Making a mint of money and giving a billion dollars to philanthropic causes — as the Rockefeller family has done — is a fine method, too. But it is unlikely that anybody will even make a billion dollars anymore.

So neither by the warrior's trade nor the businessman's largesse is likely that you will make a great impact on your fellowman during the rest of this century. The big fields of the future are politics, science, literature, religion — and motherhood.

And here are ten ways to make a name for yourself that will ring in the mind of mankind for a long, long time:

1. Unify the world under a single government by peaceful means — not by conquest.

2. Solve the national debt. Even Einstein hasn't done that.

3. Invent a robot that — when you put a quarter in the slot — will figure out your income tax and give you back fifteen cents in change.

4. Write a book with a belly laugh so big it'll give folks a choke.

## Prosecution Nears End in Stroble Case

Los Angeles, Jan. 7 (AP)—The prosecution is nearing the end of its case in Fred Stroble's murder trial, which has been so harrowing at times that jurors and the defendant have cried.

Stroble, a 63-year-old grandfather, is charged with the sex-slaying of six-year-old Linda Joyce Glucoff, his granddaughter's playmate.

Emotional tension reached a high point yesterday when Stroble's statement to the district attorney was read to the jury of 10 women and two men.

Stroble trembled and wept and several jurors were in tears when questions and answers regarding the killing were read. The prosecution claims that he strangled and hacked Linda to death with a necktie, axe, icepick and butcher knife when she resisted his advances last Nov. 14.

The questions asked of Stroble and his answers, read to the jury, included:

"Did you have any reason to kill her?"

"There was no reason. I don't know."

"Why did you want to commit suicide?"

"Well there's nothing to live for, no more."

"Why isn't there anything to live for?"

"Anything that happened like that, a human being doesn't have no right to live."

"When she started to holler, I got hold of her throat. . . . Then she got kind of quiet. . . . I didn't take very long."

After the reading, a recording of Stroble's voice, a single drug that cured cancer, ulcers, constipation, hangovers, the common cold and ordinary impotency — the six big diseases of civilization.

6. Either found a new religion or dramatized an old religion that will take people's minds off themselves.

7. Invent a plastic folding auto to solve the parking problem, a car that will go 100 miles on a thimble of fuel. You might as well make the fuel and thimble out of plastic too — everything else is.

8. Develop an essential product that can be made out of silk but can't be made out of nylon — maybe a silk beer mug. No one can be at ease in a world where the silkwoman has an inferiority complex. We all have to feel useful to be happy.

9. Discover a gravity eradicator. This will rid man of the burden of carrying his own weight around and the present apoplexy over traffic jams and free barbers of various veins.

And the tenth avenue to fame? I was going to suggest the invention of a cream that would make everyone really beautiful — not only in his own but in all eyes. That would be dreadful. I objected my wife, Frances. "Everybody would be bored to death if they couldn't see and appreciate the faults in each other."

She said there should be a place on the list for mothers.

A mother who figured out a formula for raising a son to be a perfect husband for any woman ought to go down in history," she said.

"But if all wives had perfect husbands wouldn't they be bored to death?" I asked.

"Not in the next 50 years," said Frances.

## Hopes Dim in Telephone Negotiations

St. Louis, Jan. 7 (AP)—The contract dispute between Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and the CIO Communications Workers today is right back where it was when negotiations opened Oct. 25.

There appears little hope for a peaceful settlement.

Direct negotiations between the after the company turned down a two were broken off yesterday after the company turned down a union demand for a 15-cents-an-hour wage increase.

The union in turn rejected the company's proposal to extend the 1949 contract for another year.

Federal Conciliator A. E. Johnson said he would confer with both sides early next week in an attempt to get them together again. The union's reaction to this, however, was summed up in a statement by Frank P. Lonergan, vice president of the CIO Communications Workers' Division 20.

He denounced the company's counter proposal to the union's request for a pay raise and declared: "That closes the door to any honest negotiations. It is a deliberate attempt to provoke a national telephone strike. Southwestern Bell acted on orders from its boss, the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. in New York."

A company spokesman replied that "no answer appears necessary if the union is reduced to making statements like that."

Lonergan said there will be no strike by the 50,000 workers in the six states served by Southwestern Bell until after Jan. 15. He said to Gov. Forrest Smith of Missouri the union will carry out its pledge not to call out its members until after that date.

## 'Hydrogen' Bomb Believed a Possibility

Washington, Jan. 7 (UP)—Informed but unofficial sources believed today that this country already was launching efforts to create a super bomb out of the same stuff that fires the sun and stars.

Up to a few weeks ago, private scientists were figured that the so-called hydrogen bomb was purely a paper concept.

The now believe that the U. S. atomic energy commission has set up a project to go into the practical aspects.

These sources also believe that enough progress has been made in the theoretical phase of hydrogen bomb research to justify pushing into the technical phase.

When and whether the technicians will succeed, no one knows. If they do, they will have ample supplies of raw material.

Uranium raw material of the A-bombs now being made, is one of the scarcest of elements. But hydrogen is the most plentiful material in the universe.

Disclosures of recent weeks indicate a theory into technical fact drew a curt no comment from President Truman at his news conference Thursday.

Chairman Brian McMahon, (D-Conn.), of the senate-house atomic energy committee, was similarly uncommunicative. The atomic commission said "no comment."

But a source who ought to know what is going on automatically discounted reports that the United States is about to commit \$2,000,000,000 to super bomb development.

Instead hydrogen bomb research will be continued within the existing atomic project. The time is not yet here, it was indicated, when just a period it uses are called for. There was a suggestion that the new bomb may actually cost much less to develop than the uranium-plutonium bombs.

Creation of the hydrogen bomb would mean a reversal of the nuclear process now used in A-bombs. Instead of splitting the heaviest atoms, man would combine the lightest ones.

## Burns Prove Fatal to Miss Knoble

Miss Louise Knoble, aged 74, died about noon today in a local hospital after suffering early today at the home of Mrs. Mae Cargile, where she resided.

Aroused by strange sounds Mrs. Cargile discovered Miss Knoble in front of the fire in her room with her gown afire. She was badly burned about the body and face.

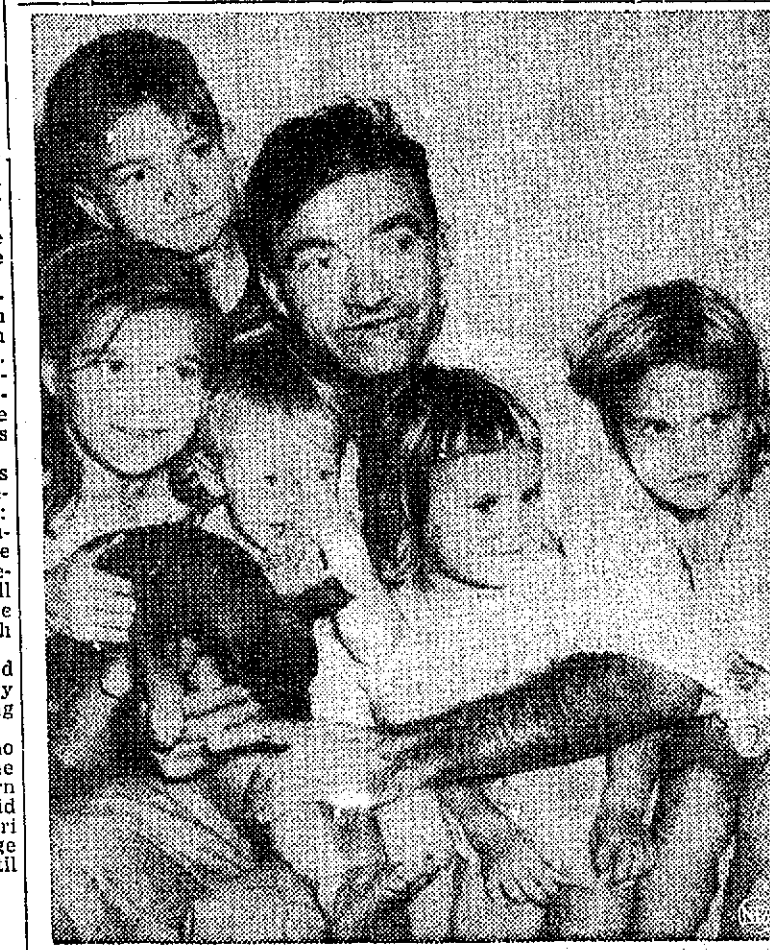
Mrs. Cargile suffered minor burns in extinguishing the blaze.

It is believed that she had just lighted the fire which caught her gown. She was rushed to the Eglin Hospital where little hope was held for her recovery following examination of the burns. She died a few minutes before noon today.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Some stalks of bamboo grow to be a foot in diameter and 85 feet high.

# 21 Dead, 10 Missing as Fire Destroys Mental Ward in Iowa Hospital



GRANDMA TO THE RESCUE — Felix Perilloux a retired Army Warrant Officer gives his big grin as he learns that his six children will be taken care of by his mother. Perilloux offered all the children to anyone who'd look after them, and was swamped with calls from New Orleans families. His mother convinced him the children must stay together so they will move to St. Charles Parish to live with grandma, including Perilloux. (NEA Telephoto)

## Overheated Stove Fatal to Five

Mossoula, Mont., Jan. 7 (AP)—An overheated stove fired a frame house into a flaming inferno of death yesterday for five children.

The blaze broke out in near zero weather while the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Molenda, were away to get a hospitalized daughter, one of their 12 children.

Dead are Gladys, 13 Stanley, 10, Beverly, 7, Carol, 6 and Sharon, 5. Gordon, 2 is in critical condition from burns over four fifths of his body. Bobby, 9, was treated for minor injuries. Four youngsters escaped injury.

A family friend, Jim Parrish, who was staying with the children, suffered face and hand burns saving 17-month-old Linda.

"The smoke woke me," Parrish said. "I ran to the porch and shouted for help. I was going to leave the house, grabbed her out of the crib and ran out of the house."

The baby the flames were roaring and smoke was so thick I couldn't see. As I lifted the baby from the crib a tongue of flame struck me in the face and I thought something heavy had hit me.

"I tucked the baby under my arm and started for the door. As I came through the door I tripped over one of the boys, Bobby, I think. He was crawling out of the house. I grabbed him by the arm and pulled him out into the yard."

"I think I passed out. The next thing I knew I was hanging on the fence and someone was taking the baby out of my arms."

## Airforce to Try Polar Refueling

Washington, Jan. 7 (AP)—The air force is going to stage bomber refueling tests in the sky above the north polar ice cap, within a war-time striking range of Europe and Asia.

It announced last night that three refueling squadrons will go to Goose Bay, Labrador, to spend a week each on a "training mission designed to increase the efficiency of air-to-air refueling."

The squadrons will leave their bases at 10-day intervals, from January 9 to February 5.

In Fort Worth, Tex., Maj. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, commander of the 8th air force, said the squadrons will be from the 509th bombardment wing at Walker Air Force base Roswell, N. M. The group is known as the atomic bomb group because it took part in the Bikini tests.

Ramey said the refueling technique will be the same as that employed by the B-50 Lucky Lady on its non-stop global flight last year.

The Labrador tests will mark the first time such refueling has been done on a squadron basis, he said. The official announcement did not specify the type of planes participating in the operation, but only wartime-built B-29s have been equipped as tankers. The B-50s used in tanker squadrons are equipped to receive the nozzle end of a retractable "boom" through which fuel is fed from the tanker.

Wood for coting is said to provide one of the heaviest drain Chinese forests.

## Truman Studies Coal Situation

Washington, Jan. 7 (AP)—President Truman today weighed an appeal from his top senate aide for swift action to restore full coal production.

Senate Democratic Leader Lucas of Illinois carried that plea to the White House yesterday and got a promise that Mr. Truman would review the situation today.

Earlier, a number of Republican lawmakers had assailed the administration for not doing something to force an end to the present three-day work week in the mines ordered by Union Leader John L. Lewis.

They said too little coal is being produced to fill demands with the weather turning colder.

Mr. Truman's position has been that the partial strike has not created a national emergency which would warrant use of his emergency powers under the Taft-Hartley law.

The President, a critic of that law, asked congress this week to repeal it.

The act permits the President to proclaim an emergency and seek an 80-day court order to halt work stoppages if he finds they are endangering the nation's health or welfare.

Several Republican congress members contended the public is suffering because the administration is withholding action against Lewis. Some called on congress to act and one, (Senator Jenner) (R-Ind) said:

"Somebody seems to be fiddling while the people of this nation are freezing to death."

Lucas, saying the three-day week has caused a serious coal shortage, carried complaints from Illinois constituents direct to the White House.

In a statement later, he said he had asked John R. Steelman, Mr. Truman's assistant, to "lose no time in lying all the facts at his command before the President of the United States."

Steelman promised to review the whole situation with Mr. Truman today.

The senator said that unless Lewis and the mine operators soon reached an agreement restoring the five-day week he will "take the floor of the United States senate and protest as vigorously as I know how the continuation of these conditions."

Lucas did not specifically call on the President to invoke his Taft-Hartley emergency powers against Lewis.

## Former Resident of This County Dies in Texas

The Rev. J. Leighton Green, aged 78, died at his home in Ft. Worth, Texas, Jan. 6, 1950. He was the son of the late Major T. Green, many years a resident of Hope. Dr. Green has many relatives and friends in Hope and Hempstead county.

Davenport, Ia., Jan. 7 (UP)—While patients screamed and in agony from behind barred windows, fire swept through a hospital for mental patients early today and brought a mounting toll of dead.

Coroner H. C. Wildman said bodies of 21 patients had been moved and 10 other women were believed dead in the smoldering debris.

Wildman said 37 others were injured, thus accounting for the persons he said were in the building. All but three of the 68 women were dead.

Except for a nurse's aide, all dead and missing were patients.

They were asleep in the three-story St. Elizabeth's ward building of Mercy hospital when the flames broke out at 2 a. m.

The fire was brought under control in a four-hour battle.

The flames spread rapidly through the 60-year-old brick structure, one of four buildings comprising this eastern Iowa city's largest hospital.

Screams of the trapped women spread the alarm.

Aid was sent at once from the nearby five-story main Mercy hospital building and 14 fire companies came immediately.

As the flames swept upward the scene became one of horror.

The women patients, many of them infirm of both body and mind, beat against the barred windows and screamed their terror. Some fainted away into unconscious flames.

A white-robed Sister of Mercy stood outside the blazing building, weeping bitterly. Her held blankets which firemen used to cover bodies as they were moved.

Catholic chaplains moved down like about their solemn duties as the flames outlined the eaves.

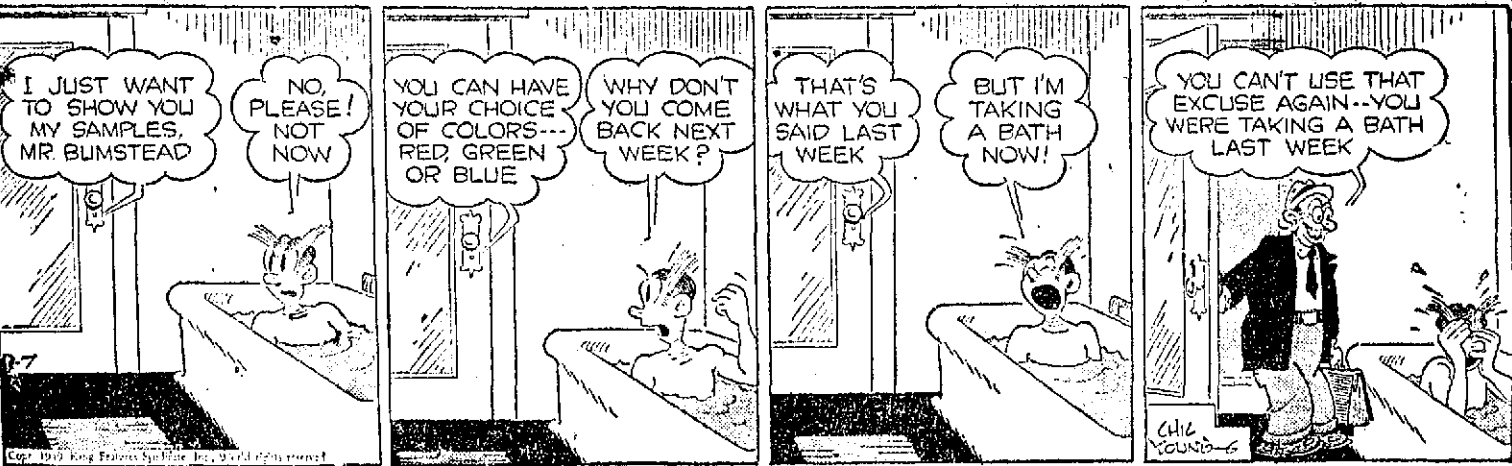
Some of the rescued returned to the burning ward, a tragic illogic of Catholic dogma that forbids the taking of life — a picture, their shoes.





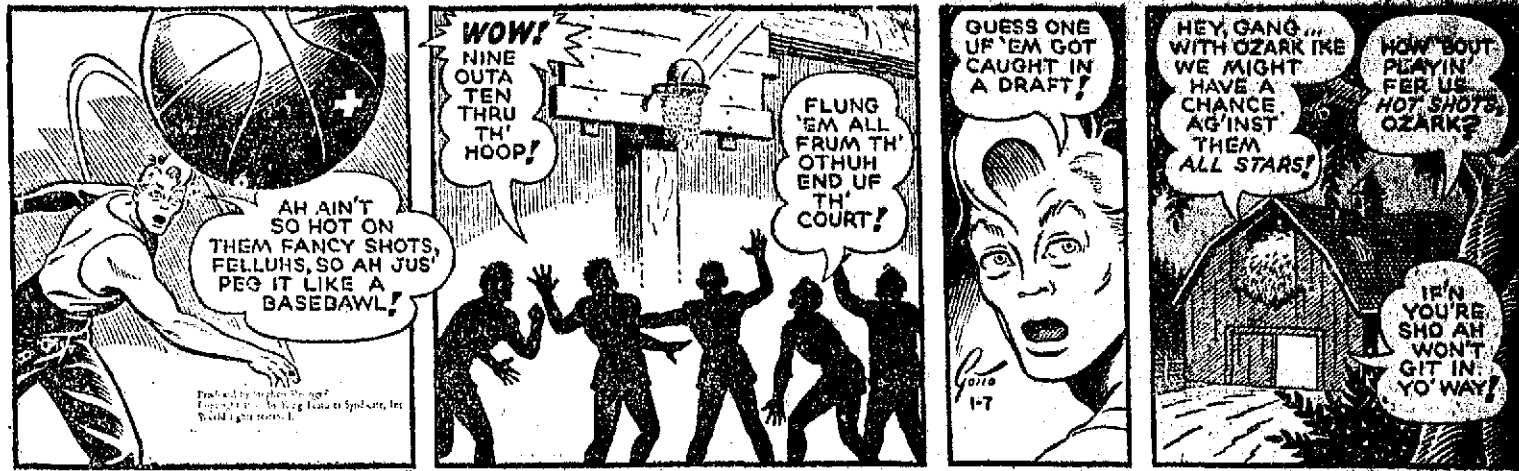


BLONDIE



By Chick Young

OSARK IKE



By Roy Gatto

Breed of Dog

**HORIZONTAL**

- 1 Depicted type of dog
- 7 It is a breed of
- 13 Expunger
- 14 It is a native of
- 15 Dine
- 16 Ceremonies
- 18 Lieutenants (ab.)
- 19 Slide
- 21 Stitch
- 22 Endure
- 23 Hawaiian bird
- 24 Half-em
- 25 Rave
- 27 Mine entrance
- 30 Art (Latin)
- 31 Preposition
- 32 Of the thing
- 33 Sheltered side
- 34 Domestic slave
- 37 Roman god of war
- 38 Diminutive of Edgar
- 39 Within
- 40 Get up
- 42 Suitable
- 45 Cease
- 48 Worthless morsel
- 49 Warning device
- 51 Self esteem
- 52 Greater in stature
- 53 Approached
- 54 Scoffs
- 57 Backbones

**VERTICAL**

- 1 Honey-makers
- 2 Verbal
- 3 Allotted portions

**CARNIVAL**

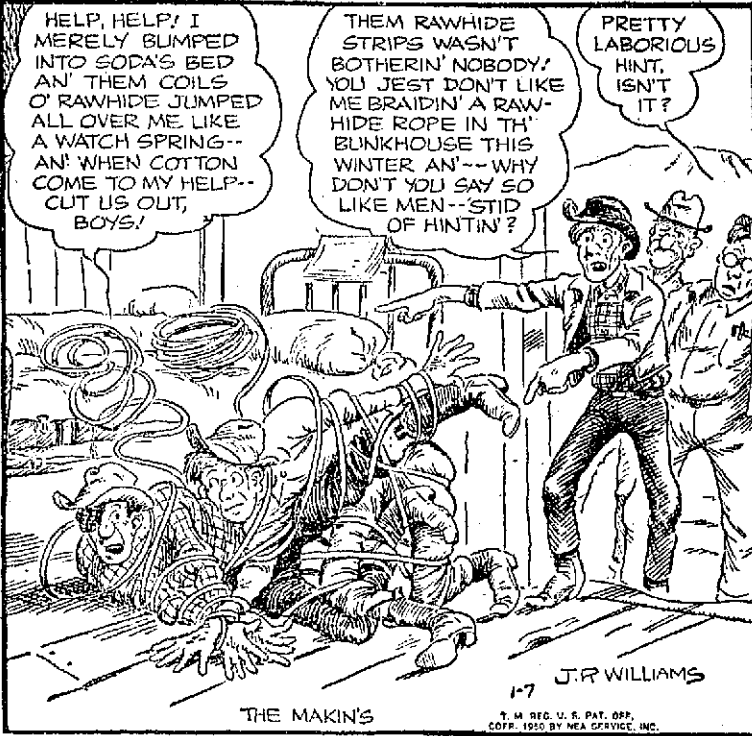
By Dick Turner



"Maybe they would make heaven out of washday—but then they'd make payday something else again!"

QUIT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With Major Hoople



FUNNY BUSINESS

By Hershberger



"Could youse spare a cup of coffee for a professional economist? My ideas didn't work out when I started a business of my own!"

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Blosser



VIC FLINT



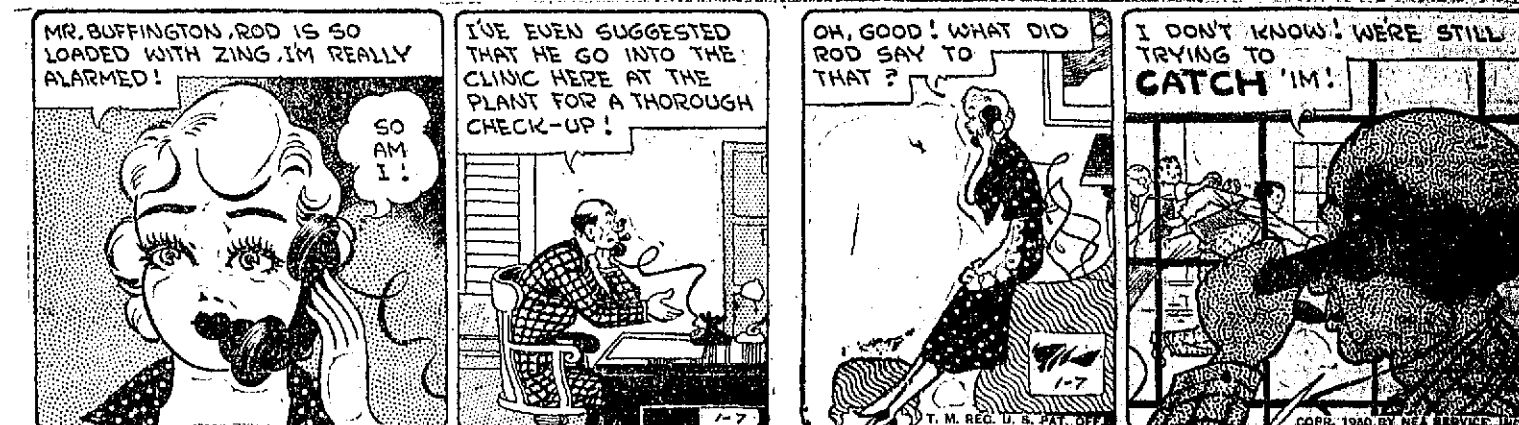
By Michael O'Malley and Ralph Lang

WASH TUBBS



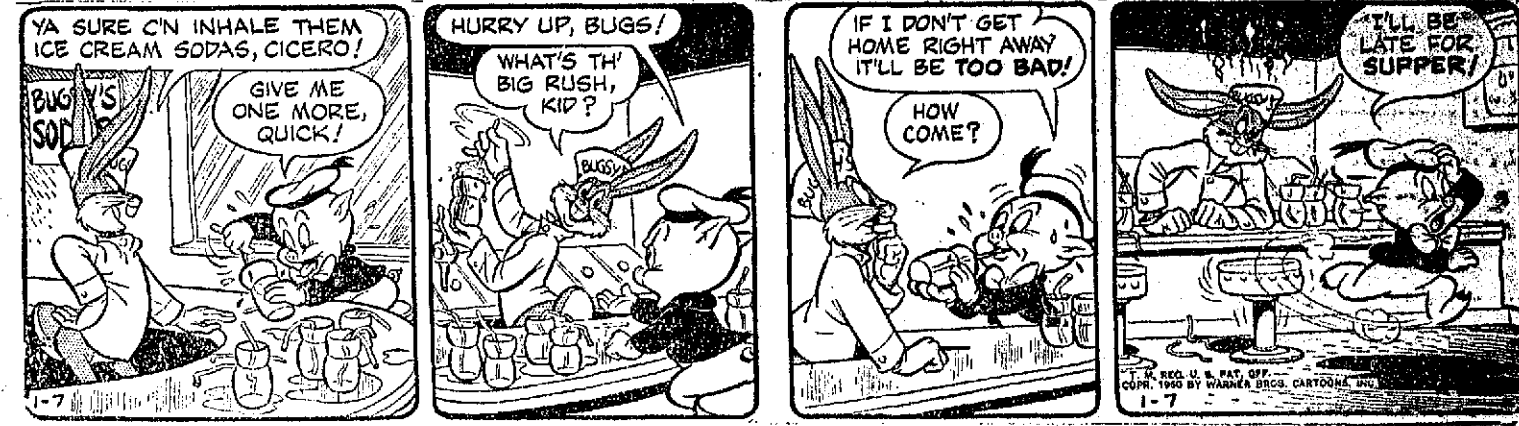
By Leslie Turner

BOOTS

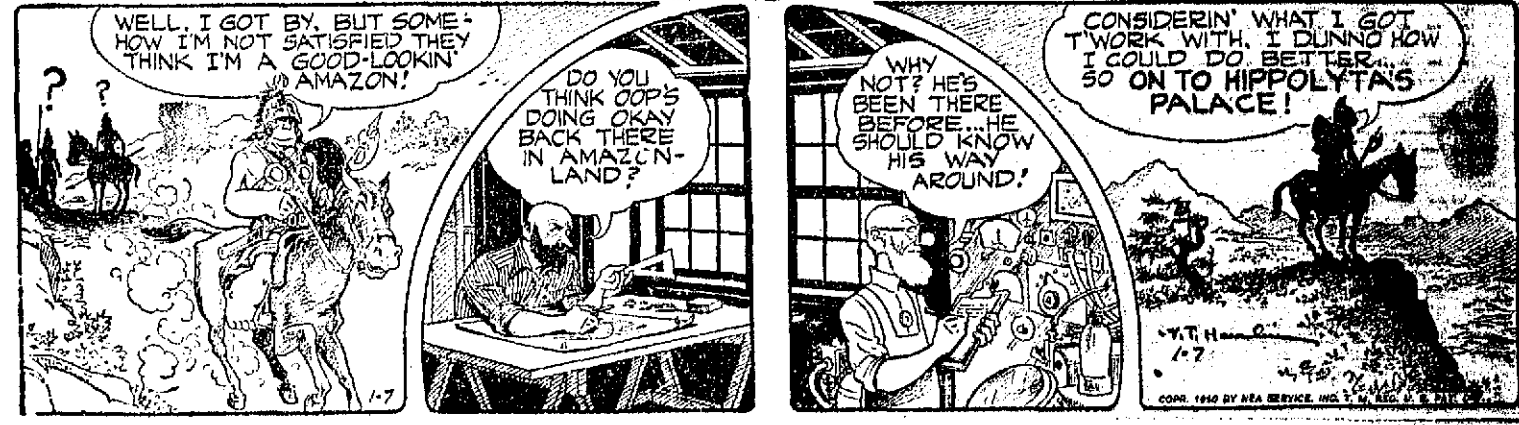


By Edgar Martin

BUGS BUNNY

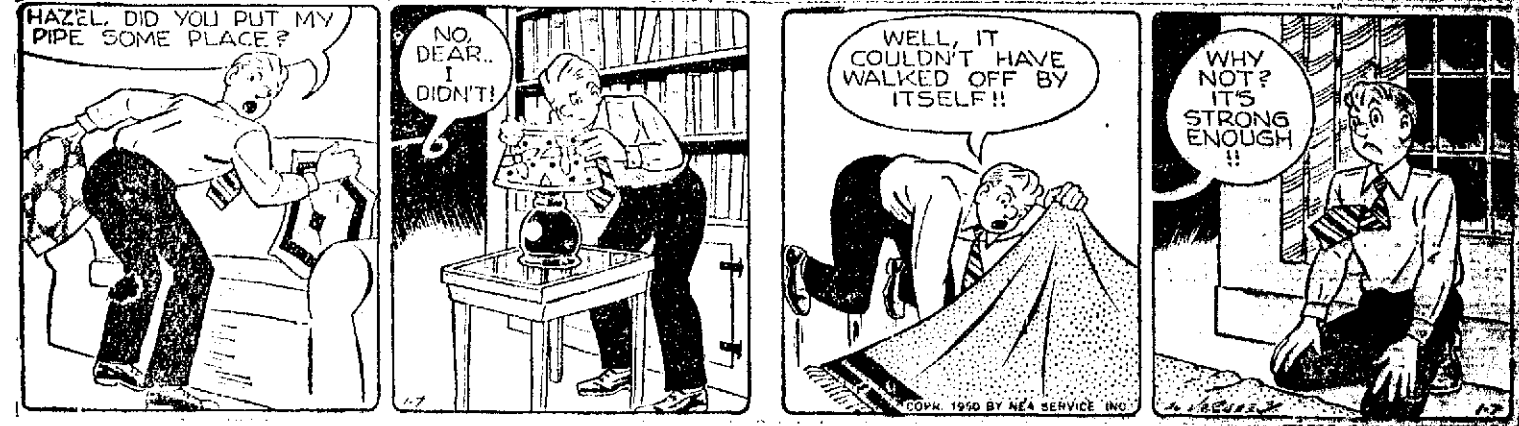


ALLEY OOP



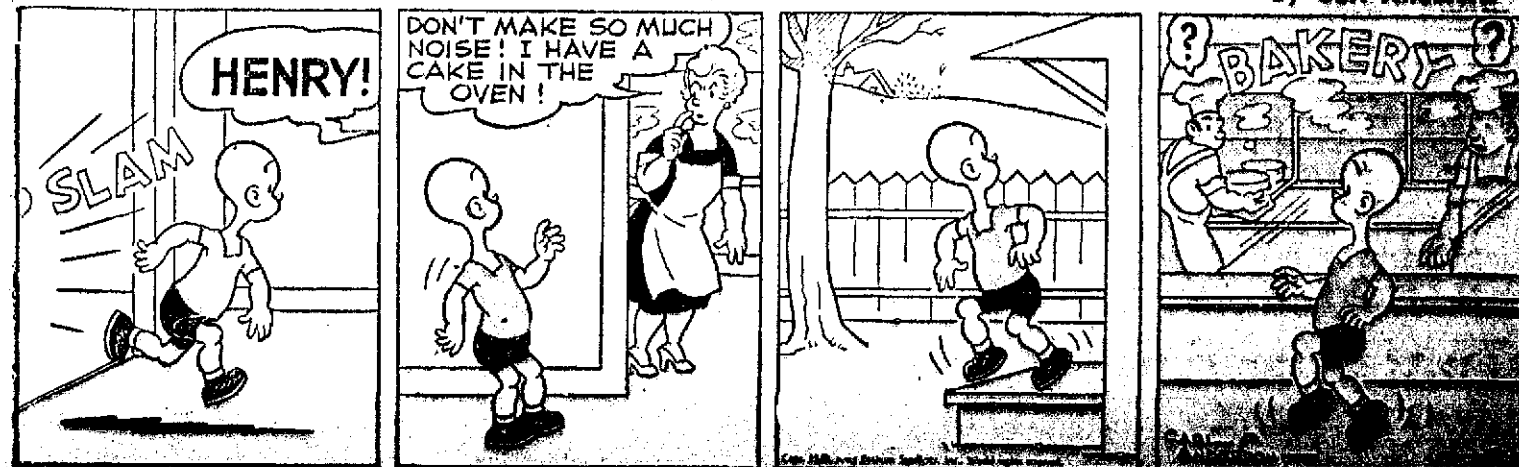
By V. T. Homlie

PRISCILLA'S POP



By Al Vermeor

HENRY



By Carl Anderson

SIDE GLANCES

by Galbraith



"If they ask us to play Canasta, I want you to keep the peace--we don't know these people well enough to argue with them yet!"



